

Small Group Discussion Questions

Orangeburg County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Pre-K education for all students
- Technology education is available
- Homework center
- Literacy programs
- Parenting Centers
- AR Program
- Developing quality teachers (Pre-service and In-Service)
- Parent Coordinators per school
- Parent volunteers (3 for Me)
- Lease computers for schools as opposed to purchasing
- EEDA with OC Tech
- IGP
- Virtual High schools
- Dual enrollment
- Course offerings
- Cope Career Center
- Boys & Girls Club
- SIC
- Strong partnership between technical college and school districts
 - Share resources
 - Adult education and literacy
 - OCEBA-Orangeburg-Calhoun Education and Business Alliance
- Credit recovery
- Every child ready to read (age group programs) 3-8
- First Steps and Head Start
- Community of Character
- Mobile Technology Bus/Van
 - Teach technology classes
 - Wireless capabilities
- Posi-teen
- Sunlight Club
- Faith community involvement
- Leadership programs at SC State
- Two universities that train teachers
- Library has databases with practice tests
- Assessment system and program to improve
- Literacy council helps parents help children
- Good school facilities

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- No continuity between teacher training-they have theory but no application/real life experiences
- Child care
 - When adults have programs
 - Close at 5:30
 - Cost & quality
 - Standards

- Working poor can't afford
- Working poor can't get support
- Teacher Shortages
 - Math/Science
 - Burnout
 - Location
 - Compensation
- Lack of technology infrastructure
 - Computers
 - Science lab equipment
- Early childhood education
 - 4-K all day or half day
- Room for improvement in facilities
- Serving disabled students
 - Physical
 - Learning
 - Expertise
 - Teachers
- Professional development
 - Low income
 - Technology
 - Middle School
- Need businesses to allow time off to attend school programs
- Transportation
- Awareness
- Time and money
- Support
- Shared community vision
- Community involvement
- Parental involvement
- Understanding our diverse communities
- Increase demands on teachers
- Tutoring after school – church
- Incentives for good grades
- Community breakfast for stuff
- Rotary scholarships
- Essay contests
- Junior leadership
- Educator the year
- Mentoring SCORE
- Community of character-catch a kid, etc.
- Flexibility of funds utilization
 - Expanding support and involvement from faith based organizations
 - Change the perception of school's climate for parents

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Increase the number of 4 year olds being served
- Increasing the knowledge of student learning styles
- People
- Stakeholders have own interests and need consensus among people
- Reluctant to change
- 20/80% rule already doing so much
- Focus more on students and less on statistics

- Reduce standardized testing, distressed students
- Improve access to technology and knowing what to do with it
- More books, reading-balance of technology, reading, video
- Erosion of family
- Parents need to be in charge of their children, control, boundaries
- Competing interests-electronic games, TV, text messaging, etc.
- Facility and technology upgrades
- Money and support
- Political support
- Poverty Level/Generational
- Divisions in community
- How to recruit people to Orangeburg
- Understand/educate ethnic diversity
- Communicate the vision
- Take Action
- Follow thru
- Re-evaluate self
- Equally involve all stakeholders
- Coordinated Efforts (Community Mtgs.)
- Establish Who's Driving the Ship
- Galvanize the community
- Support Public school education
- Volunteer, mentoring, training
- Career fair
- Community resources available to all
- Educate low income to take advantage of services/programs/opportunities
- Work to reduce GAP
- Collaborate and partner
- Communication
 - Web
 - Media
- Come together for the good of the students

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Volunteer
- Community to buy into the benefits of education thru communication
- Reward good behavior
- Encouraging students
- Being a part of a village
- Get students more involved in their own education and solutions to some of the problems